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## RENAISSANCE

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## Virtual Tenant Business Space Offered

Virtual tenant space is now being offered at the Urban Chamber of Commerce Business Development Center, sponsored by the Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency, to meet the needs of a proliferation of online and at-home businesses. Companies that don't need physical space, but could benefit from the center's other services, can now apply to be a "virtual tenant."

Previously, the Business Development Center primarily focused on offering below-market-rate office and industrial space, along with support services and mentoring assistance, for startup companies. The internet age has reduced some companies' need for physical space, although they still require a number of the benefits and amenities available at the center, including high-speed Internet and Wi-Fi connection, meeting and training facilities featuring telephone conferencing capabilities, office equipment, business development advisors and more.

The cost to a virtual tenant, which has need of these services but not the physical space, is less than the amount paid by a tenant using onsite office space and furnishings.

The program is located at 1951 Stella Lake St. in West Las Vegas. The 17,100-square-foot facility is located across from the FBI regional headquarters.

Business owners interested in participating in the program need to complete an application and meet certain qualifications. Application forms are available at [www.urbanchamber.org](http://www.urbanchamber.org). For further details, contact Summer Rabb at 702.648.6222 or Darren Harris at 702.229.6100.



**Business Development Center**  
(Photo: city of Las Vegas Graphics Department)



**New Parking Services Location**  
(Photo: June Johns)

## One-Stop Parking Services Provided

As part of a continuing effort by the city of Las Vegas to make parking more convenient, a new parking services office now provides a one-stop shop for parking-related issues. The new office is located inside the City Hall garage at 500 S. Main St.

The new parking office allows citizens to pay parking citations, file appeals, obtain parking permits and handle any parking-related issues in the city quickly and efficiently. In the past, citizens with parking issues had to park and then cross Main Street and enter City Hall to handle parking-related matters. The new parking services center focuses on cutting down on wait time for customers.

The parking services office will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The office can be contacted by phone at 702.229.4700 or by visiting the city's website, which can be accessed at [lasvegasnevada.gov/parking](http://lasvegasnevada.gov/parking).

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## Las Vegas Ranked As "City of the Future"



fDi, a division of *The Financial Times, Ltd.*, recently completed their 2013/2014 rankings for what they deem "American Cities of the Future." Las Vegas ranked:

- Eighth for business friendliness among large American cities.
- Among the top 10 large American cities overall.



**Photos by:**

*Christoper Harman*

*Will Deethardt*

*June Johns*

## City Reduces Vacant Housing/Urban Blight Through NSP

The Neighborhood Development Division (NDD) has purchased 209 foreclosed or vacant homes for resale or lease since 2009, using funding from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The NDD is a division of the city's Economic and Urban Development Department.

The NDD targeted nine different zip codes within the city of Las Vegas for this program, based on which areas were most impacted by the economic downturn. Roughly 75 percent of these homes are either occupied by owners or renters or in escrow.

A buyer or renter must live in the home in order to participate in this program. In addition, owners must attend an eight-hour class focusing on financial responsibility, be pre-approved by a lender for their loan amount and meet income guidelines set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In addition to refurbishing homes in various states of disrepair, the NDD strives to make all homes more

energy efficient. "We always change out the heating and air-conditioning systems, as well as the hot water heaters, which benefits new home owners or long-term renters (whichever are placed in the home)," said Allison Effner, NSP program manager.

The benefits of this housing program are numerous:

- Tax-paying home owners are living in formerly abandoned homes.
- Home owner associations are receiving their assessments.
- Houses in the neighborhoods surrounding formerly abandoned homes are increasing in value.
- Contractors and construction workers are employed for home rehabilitation under a competitive bid process coordinated by NDD.

Federal funding for this program will be completed by March 2014.

For more details on this city program, visit <http://bit.ly/11d4VSk>.



**NSP House** (Photo by city's NDD)

## One-Stop Parking Services, continued...

Last year, the city placed the parking services division under the Economic and Urban Development Department. The newly reorganized and consolidated Parking Division has begun work on modernizing parking meters, online customer service, downtown parking locator assistance and aiding developers with their parking-related plans.

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